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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/801,442	03/07/2001	Peter O. Schmidt	HELLO-08601	7111

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HAVERSTOCK & OWENS LLP
162 NORTH WOLFE ROAD
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EXAMINER

NI, SUHAN

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2643

DATE MAILED: 05/03/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/801,442

Applicant(s)

SCHMIDT ET AL.

Examiner

Suhan Ni

Art Unit

2643

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 02 December 2004.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-11 and 13-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,2,4-7,9-11,13 and 15-20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 3,8 and 14 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

1. This communication is responsive to the amendment filed 12/01/2004.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) The invention was described in a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or on an international application by another who has fulfilled the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of section 371(c) of this title before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent.

2. Claims 1-2, 5-7, 13, 15 and 18-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Ito (U. S. Pat. - 6,203,344).

Regarding claims 1, 6 and 20, Ito discloses a headphone support element for securing a headphone connector to a headphone connector interface of an electronic device (1), said element comprising: a circular plug (112) and a jack (22) for operatively receiving the plug (Fig. 1), wherein the headphone support element has a first receptacle (25) for operatively engaging and fixedly securing the headphone connector as claimed.

Regarding claims 2, 7, Ito further discloses the headphone support element, wherein each of a first side and a second side of the headphone support elements extends perpendicular to the first receptacle, thereby preventing the headphone connector from moving within the first receptacle when the headphone connector is connected to the interface (Fig. 1) as claimed.

Regarding claim 5 and 19, Ito further discloses the headphone support element, wherein the headphone support element is integrally formed within the electronic device (Fig. 1).

Method claims 13, 15 and 18 are similar to claims 1-2, 5-7 and 19-20 except for being couched in method terminology; such methods would be inherent when the structure is shown in the references.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 4, 9-11 and 16-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hagopian (U. S. Pat. - 3,375,333).

Regarding claims 4 and 9, Ito does not clearly teach an elastic material as claimed. Since providing a synthetic material for molding a connector of a headphone support element is very well known in the art, it therefore would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time the invention was made to be motivated to provide a suitable synthetic material, such as plastic for molding the connector of the headphone support element, in order to efficiently and effectively manufacture the headphone support element.

Regarding claims 10-11, Ito does not clearly teach how to couple the element to the electronic device as claimed. Since providing a desirable mechanical coupling between a headphone support element and an electronic device is very well known in the art, it therefore would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time the invention was made to be motivated to provide a suitable mechanical coupling, such as adhesive for mechanical coupling

the headphone support element to the electronic device as an alternate choice, in order to efficiently and effectively manufacture the electronic device.

Method claims 16-17 are similar to claims 10-11 except for being couched in method terminology; such methods would be inherent when the structure is shown in the references.

Allowable Subject Matter

4. Claims 3, 8 and 14 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Response to Amendment

5. Applicant's arguments dated 12/02/2004 have been fully considered, but they are not deemed to be persuasive.

Regarding claim 1, the cited reference (U. S. Pat. - 6,203,344) clearly teaches a headphone support element (26) for securing a headphone connector (111) having one circular plug (112) to a headphone connector interface (22, 25) of an electronic device (1) having a corresponding jack (22) wherein the plug is inserted into the jack, the headphone support element coupled with the headphone connector interface, wherein the headphone support element having a first receptacle (25) for engaging and securing the plug of the headphone connector, wherein the headphone connector cannot move or rotate when connected to the headphone connector interface (Fig 1) as claimed.

Regarding claim 6, the cited reference (U. S. Pat. - 6,203,344) clearly teaches an electronic device (1) having a circular headphone connector interface (22) for accepting a

corresponding circular headphone connector (112), the electronic device comprising: a headphone support element (25) coupled with the headphone connector interface, the headphone support element having a first receptacle (25) for engaging and securing one circular plug (111) of the headphone connector within, the headphone support element (Fig. 5A) having a first side (SIDE A) and a second side (SIDE B), wherein the headphone connector cannot move or rotate when connected to the headphone connector interface (Fig. 1) as claimed.

Regarding claim 20, the cited reference (U. S. Pat. - 6,203,344) clearly teaches a system (26 and 111) for coupling a remote device (100) having a circular male plug (112) to an electronic device (1) having a corresponding circular female jack (22), wherein the remote device is electrically coupled to the electronic device by inserting the male plug into the female jack (Fig. 1), the system comprising a support element (113) mounted to the electronic device such that the support element mechanically engages the male plug and prevents the male plug from rotating relative to the female jack (Fig. 1) as claimed.

Regarding the remarks, the applicants state that: Ito does not disclose a **Jack having a receptacle for securing one circular plug**. The examiner respectfully disagrees with the applicants. Ito does clearly disclose a Jack (26) having a receptacle (25) for securing one circular plug (112) as argued. Furthermore, the argued limitation fails to reside in any rejected independent claims.

Method claims 15-18 are similar to claims 1-14 and 19-20 except for being couched in method terminology; such methods would be inherent when the structure is shown in the references.

Conclusion

6. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** See M.P.E.P. § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a).

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR RESPONSE TO THIS FINAL ACTION IS SET TO EXPIRE THREE MONTHS FROM THE DATE OF THIS ACTION. IN THE EVENT A FIRST RESPONSE IS FILED WITHIN TWO MONTHS OF THE MAILING DATE OF THIS FINAL ACTION AND THE ADVISORY ACTION IS NOT MAILED UNTIL AFTER THE END OF THE THREE-MONTH SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD, THEN THE SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD WILL EXPIRE ON THE DATE THE ADVISORY ACTION IS MAILED, AND ANY EXTENSION FEE PURSUANT TO 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a) WILL BE CALCULATED FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THE ADVISORY ACTION. IN NO EVENT WILL THE STATUTORY PERIOD FOR RESPONSE EXPIRE LATER THAN SIX MONTHS FROM THE DATE OF THIS FINAL ACTION.

7. Any response to this final action should be mailed to:

**Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450**

Or faxed to:

(703) 308-9051, (for formal communications; please mark "EXPEDITED PROCEDURE"), or

(703) 305-9508, (for informal or draft communications, please label "PROPOSED" or "DRAFT")

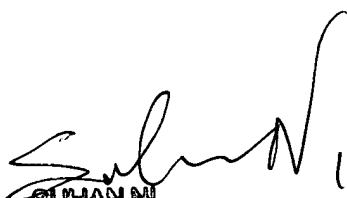
8. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to **Suhan Ni** whose telephone number is **(571)-272-7505**, and the number for fax machine is **(703)-872-9306**. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Thursday from 9:00 am to 7:30 pm. If it is necessary, the examiner's supervisor, **Curtis Kuntz**, can be reached at **(571)-272-7499**.

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9. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (**PAIR**) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov/>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

10. Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the group receptionist whose telephone number is (571)-272-2600, or please see <http://www.uspto.gov/web/info/2600>.

April 30, 2005


SUSAN NI
PRIMARY EXAMINER